

TUA NEWS RELEASE

Taxpayers United of America

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Taxpayers Fight Two Property Tax Increase Referendums On The April 2 Ballot

CHICAGO—Taxpayers United of America (TUA) is working with local supporters to oppose two home rule referenda, in Hinsdale Twp. HSD 86 and Barrington CUSD 220.

[Click here](#) to download the Hinsdale HSD 86 Vote No flyer

[Click here](#) to download the Barrington CUSD 220 Vote No flyer

“Both of these districts are pushing massive property tax increases that aren’t necessary,” according to Jim Tobin, TUA president. “They want to fund wasteful and excessive building projects when Illinois and its individual communities are shrinking in population. People are leaving the state in droves, and these two governments don’t care why: excessively high property taxes.”

Hinsdale HSD 86 has placed a \$140 million bond issue on the April 2 ballot. Hinsdale voters soundly defeated a \$166 million bond in last October’s election, and another property tax increase for \$76 million in bonds in 2017.

“It seems that Hinsdale HSD 86 bureaucrats are determined to waste even more taxpayer dollars by putting a third referendum on the ballot in as many years, despite dwindling enrollments,” said Tobin.

Hinsdale HSD 86 has seen its enrollment drop steadily over the last six years with a net decrease of about 224 students. One major cause in the enrollment drop is that Illinois has one of the highest rates of out-migration.

“The government hacks running Hinsdale HSD 86 haven’t made any budget cuts but expect taxpayers to take another pay-cut to fund the district’s excessive wish-list of construction projects. They pretend to make cuts, in an effort to hurt parents who voted down the referenda, but all of their phony cuts will be restored if this measure passes. There is not one permanent or meaningful spending cut.”

“The district could argue that they need money for safety and security updates, but that spending category only accounts for about \$3.9 million of the \$140 million they have put on the ballot. They have neglected

to provide basic maintenance on facilities and now expect taxpayers to hand over millions of taxpayer dollars to correct their mismanagement.”

Barrington CUSD 220 has placed a \$185 million property tax increase referendum on the April 2 ballot. It also has seen a steady decline in enrollment.

“CUSD 220 saw revenues increase .31% in the 2017/2018 school year and yet increased spending by 4.57%...on a dwindling student census.”

“Barrington bureaucrats are hitting taxpayers up for \$185 million this year but this is only a down-payment on their 20 year pipe-dream plan of fleecing taxpayers out of \$500 million for building projects.”

“They want \$5.3 million for safety and security and don’t even create an annual budget for these improvements. That’s just remarkable.”

“Hinsdale HSD 86 and Barrington CUSD 220 share more than just similar demographics; they share a complete lack of regard for the taxpayers who must fund them. Both have let facilities deteriorate over the years without adequate planning or budgeting.”

“Worse than their complete lack of fiscal planning is their ignorance of how taxpayer funded operations work. Every time they plan a pay raise, benefit increase, instructional spending increase, etc., taxpayers must take a pay cut to fund it. If taxes go up \$100 a year per taxpayer, every taxpayer has \$100 less to spend on his or her wants and needs. So yes, every time they get more money to spend, we have less. And they really don’t care.”

“Government school bureaucrats want hundreds of millions more in taxpayer dollars to build lavish offices that are occupied only about 8 total months a year.”

“Neither of these affluent districts have made any cuts to spending. Why should they? They just put a property tax increase referendum on the ballot and cry about how it’s ‘for the children’.”

“80% of local taxes go to fund government-employee salaries and benefits. Once you get past that spending, it starts being ‘about the children.’ I urge everyone in these districts to vote No on April 2 and demand government bureaucrats cut spending, not increase it.”

“Home rule always means higher taxes because it removes the cap limiting the amount that politicians can increase property taxes. Home Rule even allows municipalities to impose a real estate transfer tax. It gives politicians a blank check.”

“TUA has defeated 431 local tax increase referenda since 1976, and on behalf of taxpayers we hope to reach 433 taxpayer victories. We urge voters in these two communities to tell bureaucrats that they have had enough of their governments’ living beyond their means at the expense of taxpayers. Voters should urge their fellow taxpayers to Vote No.”